



CAMP WHITE GRENADE II



"Preserving the Past for the Future"

VOLUME 3, NO. 2

NEWSLETTER OF THE CAMP WHITE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1998

THE ASSOCIATION'S NEW BANNER



In a joint effort with the Southern Oregon Military Vehicle Collectors Club (SOMVCC) the Camp White Historical Association's new red, white and blue banner is carried on Emmett Ramey's 5-ton Military Truck. Ramey,

board member of both organizations, participates in all parades in the area, and proudly presents our Banner. This is one way we try to gain support from our local communities.

The members of the Camp White Historical Association and Museum want to share this information with other fellow members.

BIRTH OF THE "CAMP WHITE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION"

About seven years ago a small group got together at a local cafe in Medford to try and start an organization to preserve the history of Camp White, Oregon, the two outstanding Divisions—the 91st and the 96th—and

all the Camp White Support elements. We have come a long way with this organization to preserve the past military history for the future. At this time the present board members want to say a special thank you to the group that

started the CWHHA. If your name doesn't get into this printing and you feel it should have, please send your story to the president of the CWHHA. Thanks again!

Charlie White
Al Johnson
Dr. Chris Hald
John Crawford
Mel Cotton

Roy Erickson
Thomas Hafey
Robert Verbick
Francis Dwyer
Otto Ewaldsen
Charles H.. Clarke

Doris Shafer
Art Mageniti
Ruth Niedermeyer
Betty Rodemeyer
Bill Johnson

George Kramer
Ed Barnett
Loran Messenger
M.J. Krug
Marjorie Edens
Claud Curtwright

Randy Hugdahl
Larry Quirk
Robert Wright
Dr. Ralph Hibbs
Ed Zander

Bienz Bertram
Charles Milam
Orin Bartholomew
Dr. Abner

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Al Inlow



Dear friends:

I would like to introduce myself as the newly elected President of the Camp White Historical Association and Museum. I am proud to accept this position. I will support all our members and friends to the utmost of my ability.

I served in the military for more than 28 years, at home and in Germany, Italy, Korea, and Vietnam. In 1977, I retired from the Army and in 1993, from Civil Service.

I'm very familiar with the history of Camp White because I grew up in the Rogue Valley. I watched the camp being built in 1942 and saw it being taken down after the war. At present I live on the old southwest border of Camp White behind Roxy Ann.

My father was an historian of Oregon's past. I also am interested in Oregon's history, but my focus is mainly related to the military. Our present goal is to expand our museum so we can display more military memorabilia. I hope to keep everyone informed of our future progress through Grenade II.

Sincerely,

AL INLOW, PRESIDENT

Camp White Historical Association and Museum

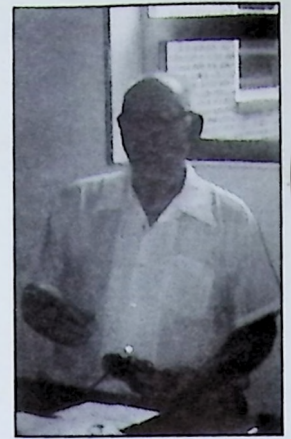
OFFICERS, 1998-99

President	Al Inlow
Vice President	Betty Welburn
Secretary/Treasurer	Judie Bunch
Executive Director	Walter Dye
Collections Curator	Del Hussey
Museum Manager	Carolyn Sharrock

The Grenade accepts suggestions and contributions from readers. If you have a story idea or appropriate event to promote, write Carolyn Sharrock at P.O. Box 2373, White City, OR 97503.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Charles Milam, one of our dedicated museum Volunteers, has retired. At this time, the Camp White Historical Association officers and members wish to thank Charles for his faithful service to this organization. He still resides in Medford with his wife Gladys.



Charles Milam

Charles was born in Urbana, Missouri, on June 28, 1919, the day the Treaty of Marseilles was signed. He joined the Army in February 1941. Charlie, as his friends call him, was first stationed at Fort Lewis, 41st Division, B Battery, 146th Field Artillery. General George White was in command of the 41st Division—the same General White for whom Camp White was named.

Charlie arrived at the new Camp White in September 1942, only two weeks after its dedication. As troops arrived, the necessary units were activated to handle their care and training. Charlie was a Drill Sergeant in the Quartermaster Corp under Captain Frank. Frank was a "retread." He had retired after 30 years in the Army but was recalled when we entered the war. According to Charlie he had come up through the ranks—a really good guy.

Charlie recalls that when Captain Frank told him he was going to make him a 1st Sgt. he felt sick and wished the cement floor would swallow him up. It was a big responsibility to be in charge of 300 men. He also remembers a "powder monkey" from the east who was always in the second rank when drilling even though he was tall. As Charlie watched, it seemed that this man could anticipate the next command and by his actions, Charlie got the idea that the man might be deaf. Charlie came up behind the man and spoke to him. The man did not respond. Sure enough, he was deaf. Needless to say, he was on his way home very soon.

Charlie has served 105 1/4 hours in the museum from the time it opened last Veteran's Day through May of 1998. He always had a funny story to tell, and a smile for everyone. Thursdays aren't the same since he left. Charlie was not only a good soldier and good volunteer—but he also makes the most wonderful bread!!

HISTORY ON DISPLAY: CHARLES A WHITE

Sgt. White enlisted in the army in January of 1940. His initial assignment was with the First Cavalry Division at Ft. Bliss, Texas. The First Cavalry Division was organized 31 August, 1921 at Ft. Bliss. Units from the Division date back to the 5th U.S. Cavalry (1855) commanded by Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee and the 7th Cavalry, which in 1876 met Crazy Horse at the Little Big Horn.

In early 1941 several officers and men of the First Cavalry were selected to serve as the cadre of what was to become the 91st Division. The Division was to be organized and trained at Camp White, Oregon. Sgt. White arrived at this post in June of 1942 with 1279 other N.C.O.s and 529 officers.

During July and August of 1942, the cadre organized the new post and by November 13,992 recruits had arrived and basic training began. Upon completion of exercises in Central Oregon and Camp Adair, the Division was sent to Italy to serve as part of General Mark Clark's 5th Army.

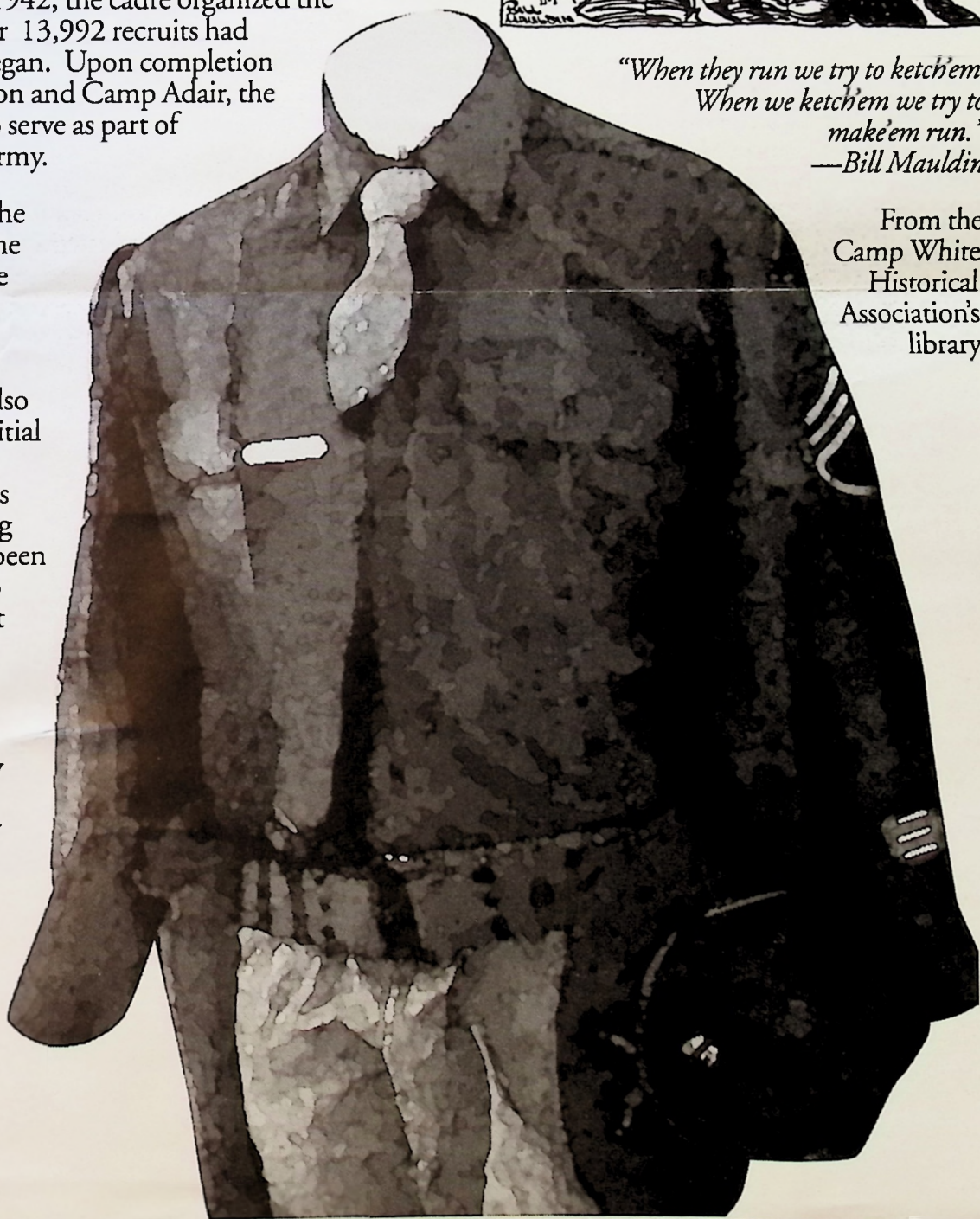
Sgt. White's experiences in the Italian campaign included the capture of 66 Germans. The Sergeant had volunteered to escort one POW to a rear area when he was contacted by 65 other Germans who also surrendered. Because the initial assignment was routine, the Sergeant had not checked his weapon. Later, after realizing what the results could have been had the POWs attempted to overpower him, the Sergeant discovered he had only 3 rounds in his gun.

After the war, Sgt. White returned to the Rogue Valley where he worked in the logging industry and eventually for the Bear Creek Corporation.



*"When they run we try to ketch'em.
When we ketch'em we try to
make'em run."
—Bill Mauldin*

From the
Camp White
Historical
Association's
library



CAMP WHITE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION HONORS VIETNAM VETS AT TRAVELING WALL

Camp White Historical Association honored the men and women who lost their lives in Vietnam by placing a wreath at the traveling Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall on June 25, 1998. Representing the Association were current Association President Al Inlow, Vice President Betty Welburn, Collections Curator Del Hussey, board member Rod Boren, and past Association president and current board member Mel Cotton.

The wall, a unique traveling memorial which constantly tours the United States, recently made a week-long visit to the Eagle Point Veteran's Association Cemetery.

Wanted: Used Wheelchair

The Association's museum is looking for a wheelchair to accommodate visitors who have trouble walking. If you live locally and know of someone who would like to donate one, please inform the CWHHA president. Thanks for your help!

CAMP WHITE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 2373
White City, Oregon 97503

Don Reynolds
Eagle Point Historical Society
Eagle Point, OR 97524

